

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Action, claims 1-11 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claims 1, 3-7, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamauchi et al. or Hoshi et al. In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1-3, 7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP '168. In paragraph 4 of the Action, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi et al. or Hoshi et al. in view of Lin.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 have been amended, and claims 4, 13 and 15 have been cancelled. Also, new claims 16-19 have been filed.

Claim 15 was not rejected by the prior art. Thus, the subject matter of claim 15 has been incorporated into claim 14 while amending the portion pointed out in paragraph 1 of the Action. Thus, it is believed that claim 14 is allowable over the prior art.

In claims 1 and 12, it is defined such that said platen roller is arranged to press the guide means (transparent film member) to transport the original between the guide means and the platen roller and positioned upstream relative to the reading position to thereby prevent scratching of the guide means at the reading position when the platen roller directly contact the guide means.

Namely, the platen roller is pressed against the guide means (transparent film member), and positioned upstream relative to the reading position. If the platen roller is located above the reading position, the guide means is scratched by the platen roller, so that the image on the original may not be properly read through the guide means. In the invention, the platen roller is positioned upstream relative to the reading position, even if the guide means is scratched by the platen roller, it does not affect

the reading of the original. Also, the original can be properly transferred by the platen roller adjacent the reading position.

In Yamauchi et al. (same as Hoshi et al.), as shown in Fig. 38, a transparent sheet 28 is located under a white guide member 38. When the original document passes the space between the transparent sheet 28 and the white guide member 38, images on the original document are read through the transparent sheet 28 at the image reading section 29 (column 23, lines 25-29). As shown in Fig. 39, a document feed roller 23 and an idle roller 24 are arranged upstream relative to the reading section to transfer the original document.

In the invention, the platen roller is pressed against the guide means (transparent film member). In Yamauchi et al, however, the document feed roller 23 contacts the idle roller 24, and the transparent sheet 28 corresponding to the guide means of the invention does not contact or is not pressed by any roller. Thus, the structures in claims 1 and 12 of the invention are not disclosed in Yamauchi et al.

In JP '168, a Mylar sheet 21 and a sheet pressing roller 24 are located at a reading position. A document is sandwiched and transferred between the sheet pressing roller 24 and the Mylar sheet 21. In the invention, the platen roller contacting the transparent film member as the guide means is positioned upstream relative to the reading position to prevent scratching of the guide means. In JP '168, the sheet pressing roller 24 is located just above the Mylar sheet 21 at the reading position. Thus, the structures in claims 1 and 12 of the invention are not disclosed in Yamauchi et al.

A rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 102 requires every element of the claim to be included in the reference, either directly or inherently. However, none of the references disclose that the platen roller is pressed against the transparent film member as the

guide means, and the plate roller is located upstream relative to the reading position.

Lin was cited to show that guide means is movable freely for pressing an original against the guide means. There is no disclosure about the relation between the platen roller and the transparent film member as the guide means, as explained above. Even if Lin is referred to, claim 8 is not obvious from the cited references.

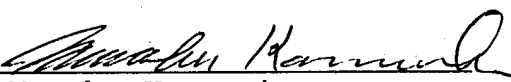
Claims of the invention are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Two month extension of time is requested herewith. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$450.00 is attached for the two month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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